

SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU (Narsapur): Sir, let the Minister make a statement..... (*Interruptions*) I want to say that many accidents are going occur. The Railway Minister is not here..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The Railway Minister has sent me a letter asking for the permission to make a statement on this. I have allowed him to make a statement. The time will be communicated to you.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): I would like to speak on the previous issue raised by Shri Rao.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rao, is it necessary? It has been beautifully put to me.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: I would only like to supplement what my colleague Shri Rao has said. It is the Tobacco Board which has encouraged the farmers.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It becomes diluted unnecessarily when it has already been put in a very good shape.

SHRI SHOBANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, it is not rice or paddy or wheat. The Tobacco Board itself encouraged the farmers to go in for higher production. Nearly sixty per cent higher production, they had advised the farmers. What I would like to impress upon you is this. Please ask the Commerce Minister to make a statement on this and he should also see that the balance of 15 million kgs. of tobacco is purchased. Sir, the traders and the Ruling Party have joined hands together and they are trying to exploit the farmers by giving lesser prices. They are going to give Rs. 10 crores to the AICC Plenary Session. That is the income of the farmers. It is really very shameful on the part of this Government. They have promised that the price will not be less than the

last year's price. What is that they are doing? Shri Chidambaram came here and promised that the price will in no time be lesser than the last year. Now, 35 per cent lesser price is being given to the farmers. They are exploiting the tobacco growers. Why should this be allowed? Please ask the Minister to make a statement on this and take necessary steps to purchase the tobacco. Please see that the orders are given. You are coming in the way of erstwhile Russian State in not putting the entire order for your own mean ends.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice about the matter of bonded labourers in Maharashtra.

Though the Government seems to be encouraging for the release and rehabilitation of the bonded labourers yet you will be shocked to learn that in one of the nationalised banks - Bank of Maharashtra - this practice is followed there since long. In spite of the repeated requests from the authorised union of the bank employees and local MP, the bank management is dilly-dallying with the subject. More than hundred men and women are employed in this bank since 1973 and they are just getting a meagre fixed pay upto Rs. 150/- per month for the last twenty years. Even the income of the beggars on the street is also more than Rs. 15/- per month. These people of fixed pay are working there for the last twenty years.

I urge upon the Finance Minister to look into the matter very seriously and end this injustice immediately and continue the services of those unfortunate, exploited employees in full-fledged and regular scale and provide all other facilities as given to all other regular employees.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to